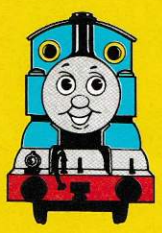
FREE Paint sponges!

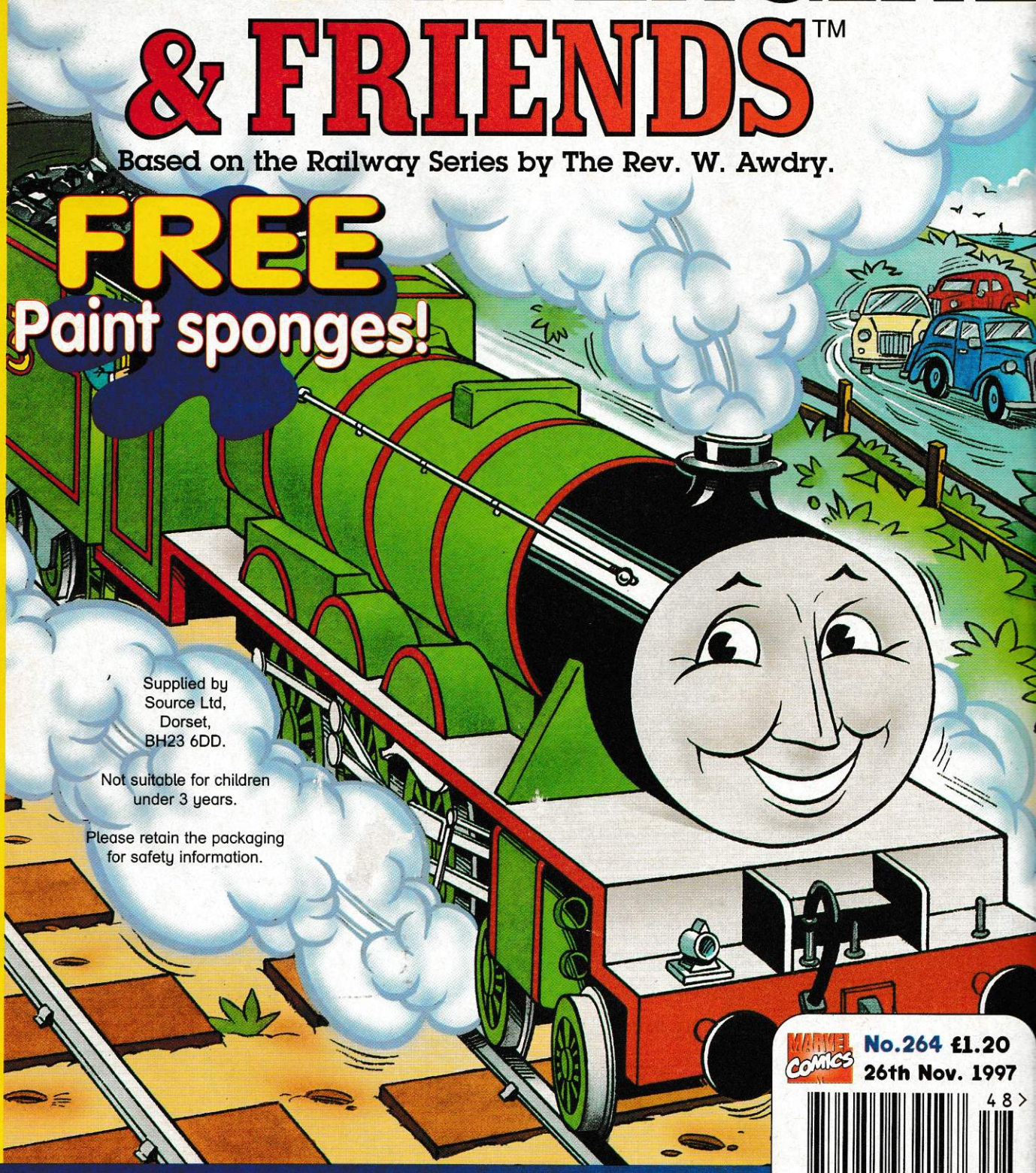
LET'S READ TOGETHER

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS




MARVEL COMICS No.264 £1.20
26th Nov. 1997
9 770954 939107 48

Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

# Hello, everybody!

## In this issue..


3 Sea Rescue!

9 Competition!

10 The Teddy Bear!

12 The Cliff Railway!

16 Mavis and the Trucks!

18 Funny Faces!

21 Join the dots!

23 Puzzle Time!

24 Flying Cars!

28 Subscriptions!

30 Mail Train!

32 Next time!

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....


THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Karen Brown & Kerry Boettcher; Art Director: Helen Nally; Junior designer: Steve Hagon; Production: Mark Irvine & JP Fahy. Marketing Director: Miles Stevens Hoare; Product Manager: Liz Teale. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach & Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.


'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © W. H. Books. 1997. All television and merchandising rights licensed by W. H. Books. 1997 to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.


Printed in the UK. Advertising: Ray James, Essential Media. Tel: 0171 833 8030. Subscriptions: MRM. Tel: 01858 410510. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON. W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

# Sea Rescue!

1. Thomas usually enjoyed a visit to the Big Harbour. But one morning, as he pulled a goods train towards the coast, the wind tugged at his wheels and big raindrops blew in his face.

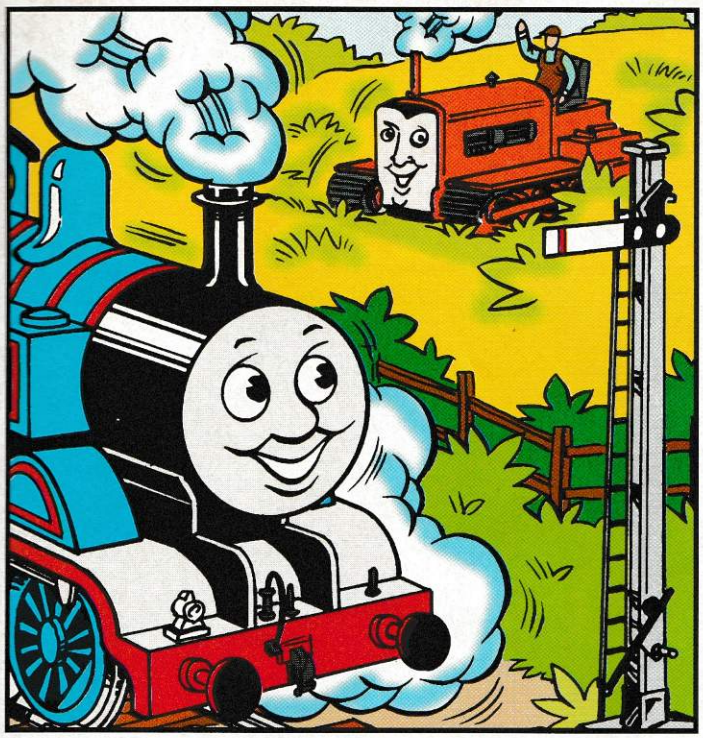
2. "Ooooh! What horrible weather!" groaned Thomas. "This trip is really hard work today." Huge, white-topped waves crashed onto the beach. "Look how rough the sea is!" he cried.

3. "No ships should be out in this awful weather," said his driver. Suddenly, Thomas spotted the Sodor lifeboat ploughing through the wild sea. "Smoke and fire!" cried Thomas.

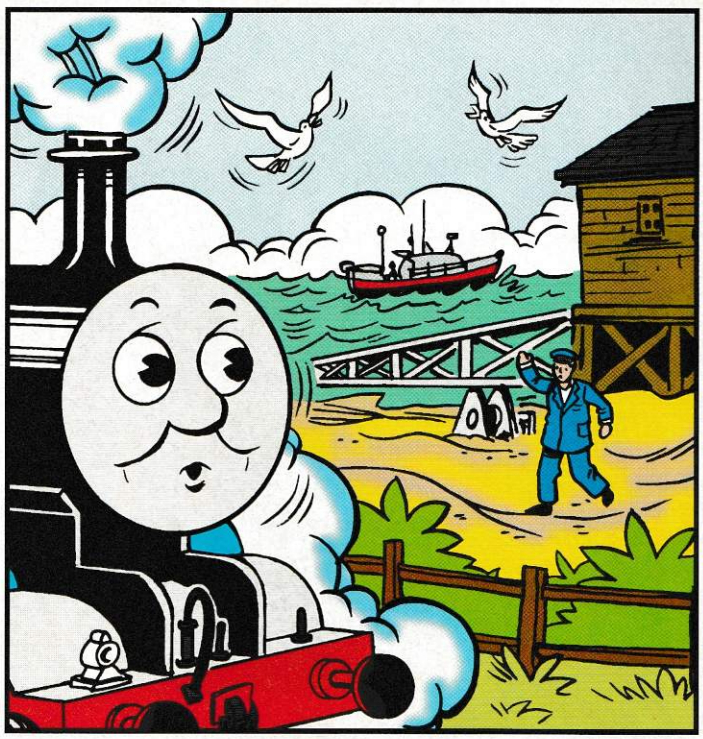
4. "That lifeboat's journey is even harder than mine," he added. Thomas thought the lifeboatmen were very brave. Then he saw the lifeboat getting closer to a fishing boat.

5. It bobbed about helplessly. Some fishermen on board waved urgently. "Their boat's motor must have broken down!" cried Thomas. "The lifeboat will rescue them," said his driver.

6. Before long, it had towed the fishing boat safely to the shore. "That lifeboat is Really Useful!" smiled Thomas. "I'll never grumble about a difficult journey again."

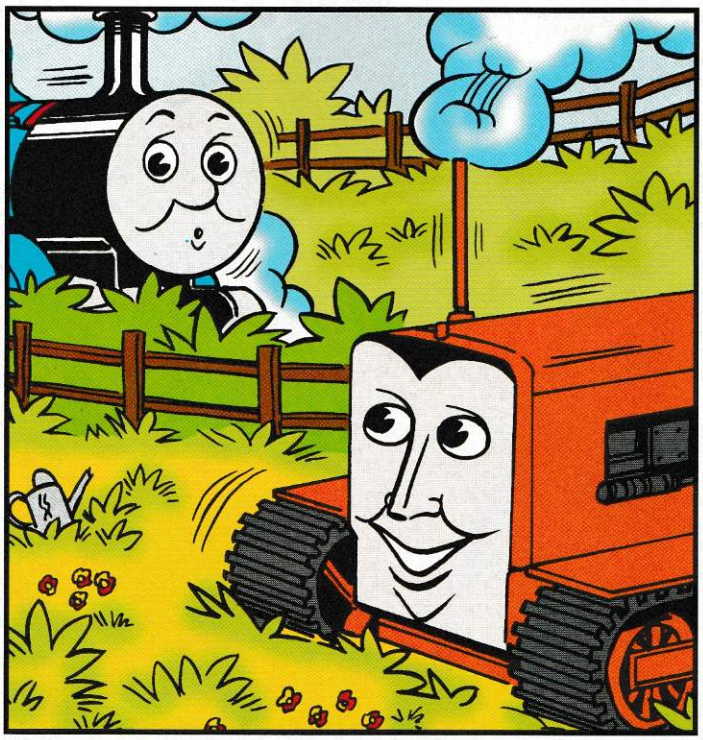


7. Next morning, he met Terence the Tractor, who was in a field by the track. Thomas pulled up at a signal and told him all about the rescue at sea. "How exciting!" said Terence.



8. Thomas was on his way to the Big Harbour again. When he arrived, the sea was very calm. But the lifeboat had been launched. Thomas saw a man hurry out of the lifeboat station.

9. "The crew are practising a launch drill. But the lifeboat can't get ashore," he shouted. "The cable that pulls it up the beach has snapped." "Terence can help," called Thomas.



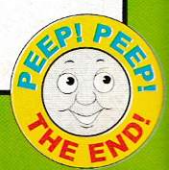
10. Thomas unloaded his trucks at the harbour. He was then coupled to a flat truck and a crane wagon.He raced back to fetch Terence. "It's an emergency," cried Thomas.

11. Thomas' crane carefully swung Terence down on to the beach. Some men were waiting. A strong line was thrown from the lifeboat and tied to Terence. "Now pull!" shouted Thomas.

12. Terence's caterpillar treads could not go fast. But they gripped very well. Slowly, Terence towed the lifeboat into the surf until the men put a special trolley underneath it.

13. Terence kept pulling until the lifeboat was ashore. "Thank goodness the lifeboat is safe now," smiled the skipper, happily. "Three cheers for Thomas and Terence, men!"

14. "Hip-hip, hooray!" the men kept shouting. The little tank engine and tractor felt really proud. "We both came to the rescue, Terence," Thomas smiled at his friend.



# Don't miss . . .

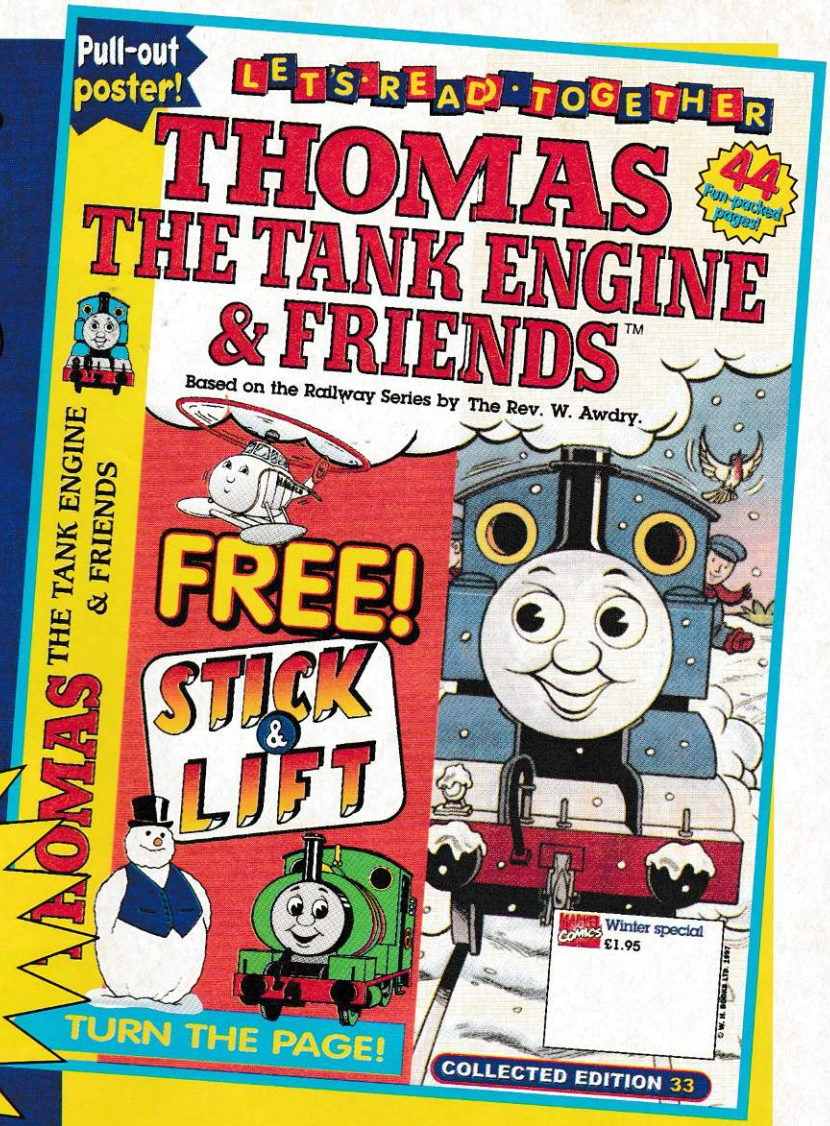
## THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

## Winter Special

**FREE**

**Playboard Plus Peel and Play Stickers!**

Use the stickers of your favourite Thomas characters to create different scenes - over and over again!




## Plus...

- 10 Super stories!
- Pull-out poster!
- Prizes to win!
- Puzzles and games!

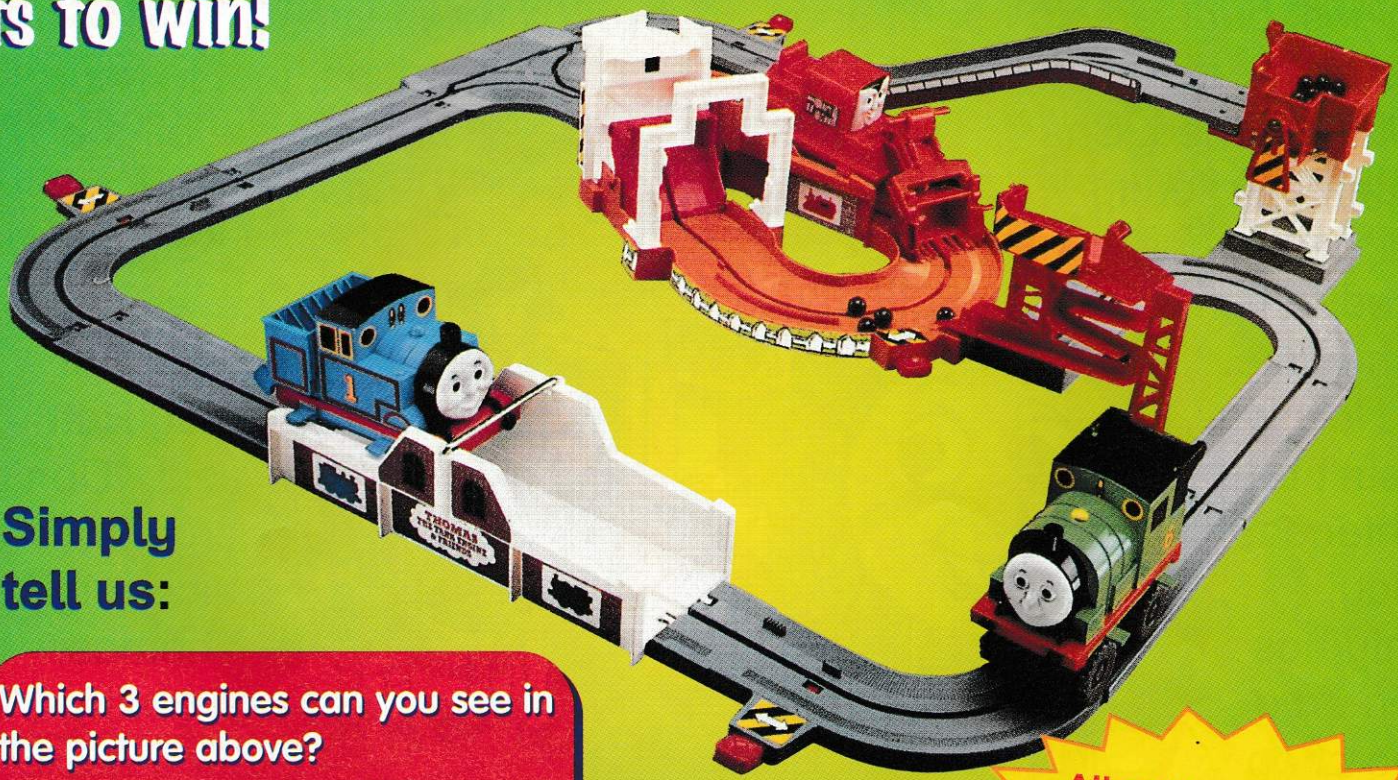
Available from all leading newsagents and supermarkets!

**On sale 27th Nov 1997!**

# Loads of Fun!

## 15 brilliant Thomas Big Loader sets to win!

**Play with Thomas and his friends as they puff around the track and pick up their loads!**



**Simply tell us:**

**Which 3 engines can you see in the picture above?**

a. Gordon, Trevor and Edward.
b. Thomas, Percy and Terence.
c. James, Diesel and Daisy.

**All entries must be received by 3rd December 1997!**

Send your answer on a postcard, along with your name, age & address to: Thomas #264 competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W. Midlands, WS9 9LR.

Reader's can purchase the Big Loader from Heart at only £18.99, including p&p. Simply contact Heart at the above address quoting this issue number.

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 264, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

# The Teddy Bear!

Lady Hatt was looking after her little niece Cynthia for the day. Lady Hatt wanted her to see the railway, and meet the friendly engines, but Cynthia hadn't been on a train before, and was a bit frightened. She brought her teddy bear along, and talked to him all the time.

"Now we mustn't be frightened, Teddy, Aunty has been on a choo-choo before, and she says it's very nice! she said to her bear.

Thomas spoke to the little girl kindly. "Don't worry, Cynthia. Riding on trains is great fun. You and Teddy will have a lovely time!"

Cynthia did have a lovely time. Holding Lady Hatt's hand, and clinging onto her teddy, she climbed aboard Annie, and found a seat. Then she watched the fields and villages speed by, listening to the happy chuffing of Thomas as he went along.

But oh dear! Cynthia was so excited when she arrived at the next station, that in her hurry to get off the train she left her teddy behind. She was so upset! But Lady Hatt said, "Don't cry, that nice engine, Thomas, will bring the teddy back for you."

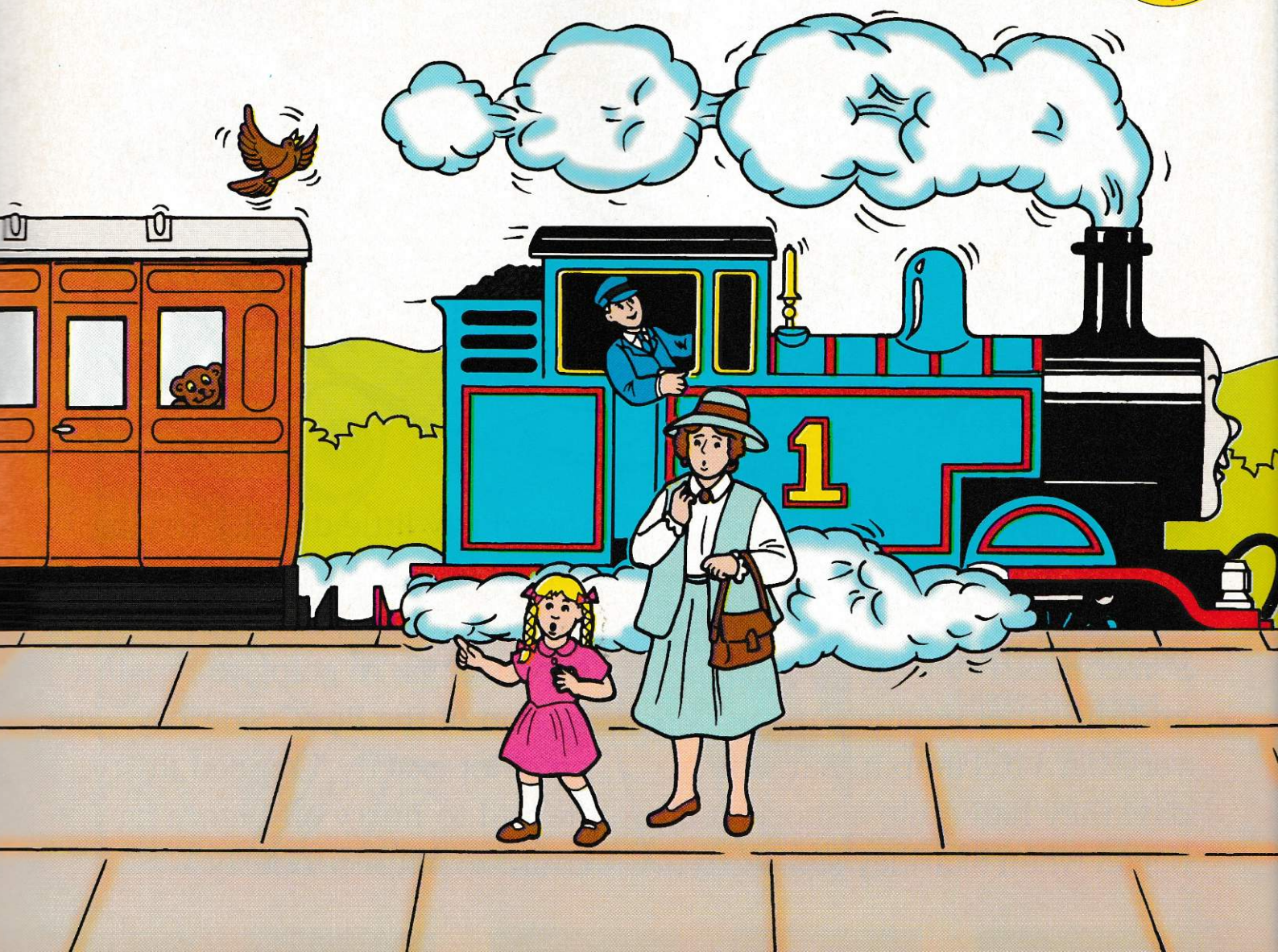
But Thomas couldn't bring the teddy back straight away. He had a big day in front of him. First he had to go to the seaside, and drop off the holiday-makers. Then he went down to the harbour, to pick up some important parcels.

After that he was re-routed across country to pick up some passengers on Percy's line, because Percy had broken down.

Just when Thomas thought he had done enough work for one morning, he was told that there was a blockage on the line. He had to take the long scenic route home, winding his way around the cliffs and hills. By the time the little tank engine got back, he felt like he had been all over the island!

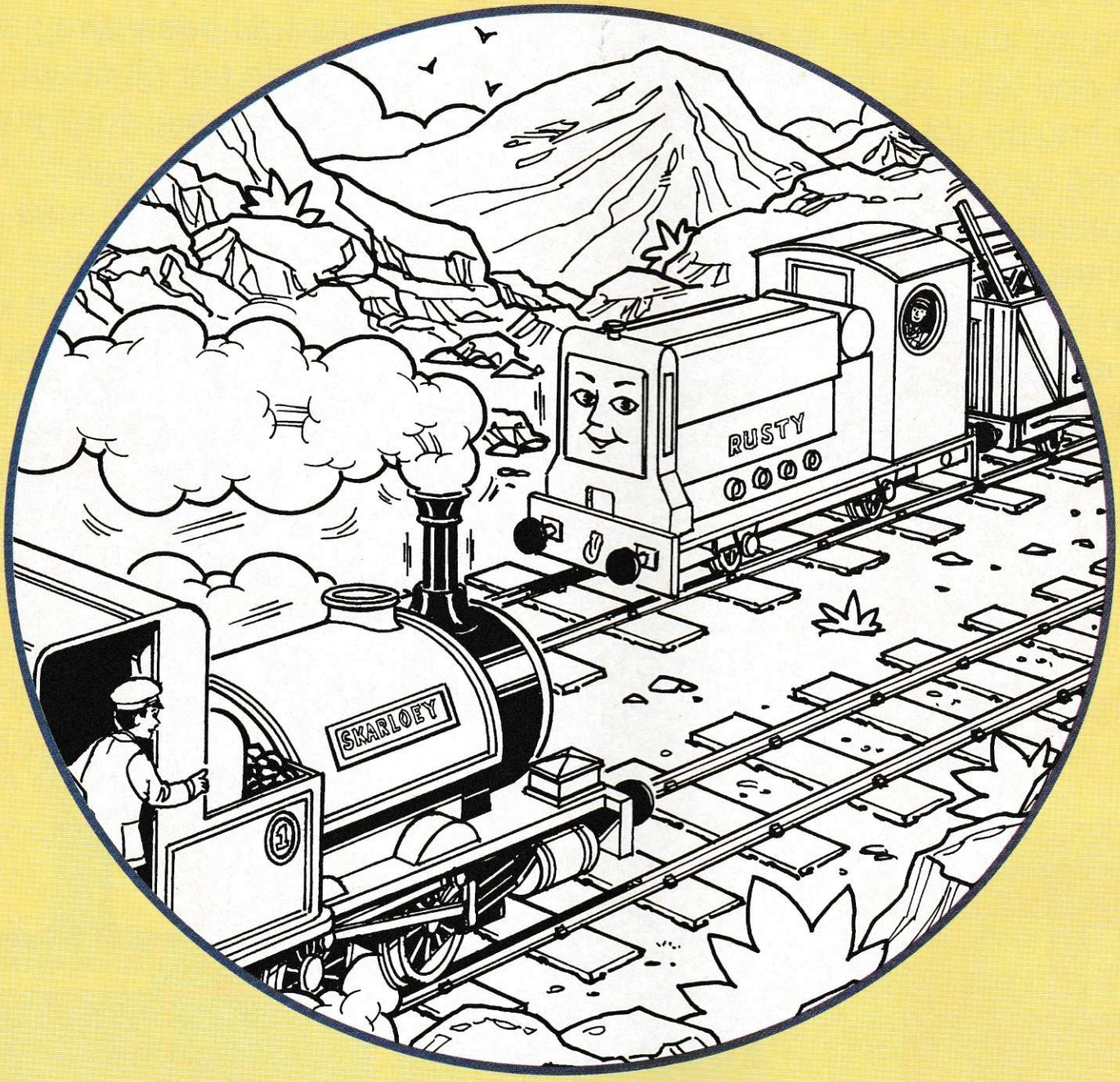
Late in the afternoon, a tired Thomas came puffing into the Main Station. Lady Hatt was there to meet him, with a very anxious little Cynthia. Smiling, Thomas' driver handed over the teddy bear which he had kept safe after a passenger handed it in.

Cynthia was so pleased to see her teddy bear again. She gave him a big hug! Thomas said he was sorry he had been away so long, and he told her all about his busy day. "I hope this won't put you off going on trains again," said Thomas. "Of course not!" said Cynthia. "I'll be happy to go anywhere now - it'll be alright if I'm with Teddy. He knows all about railways now. After all, he's been everywhere!"



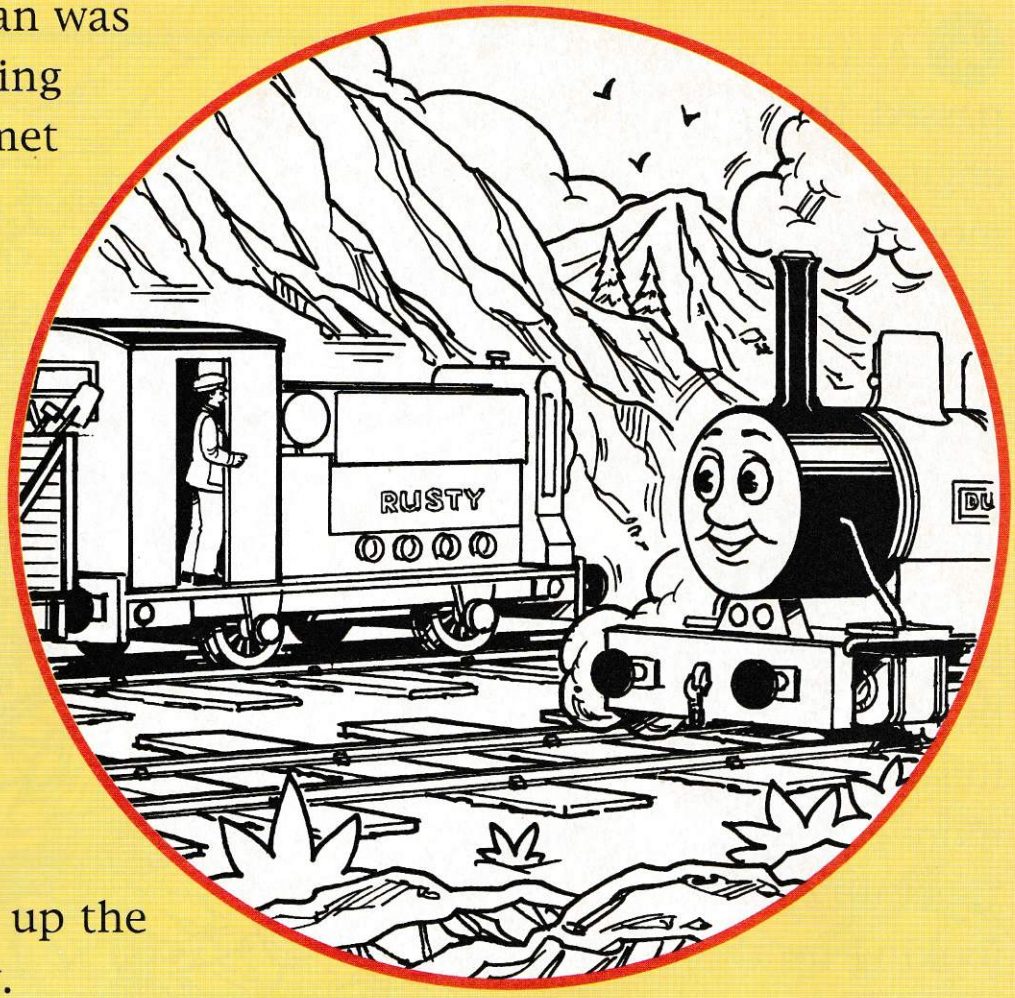
A read & colour story

# The Cliff Railway!



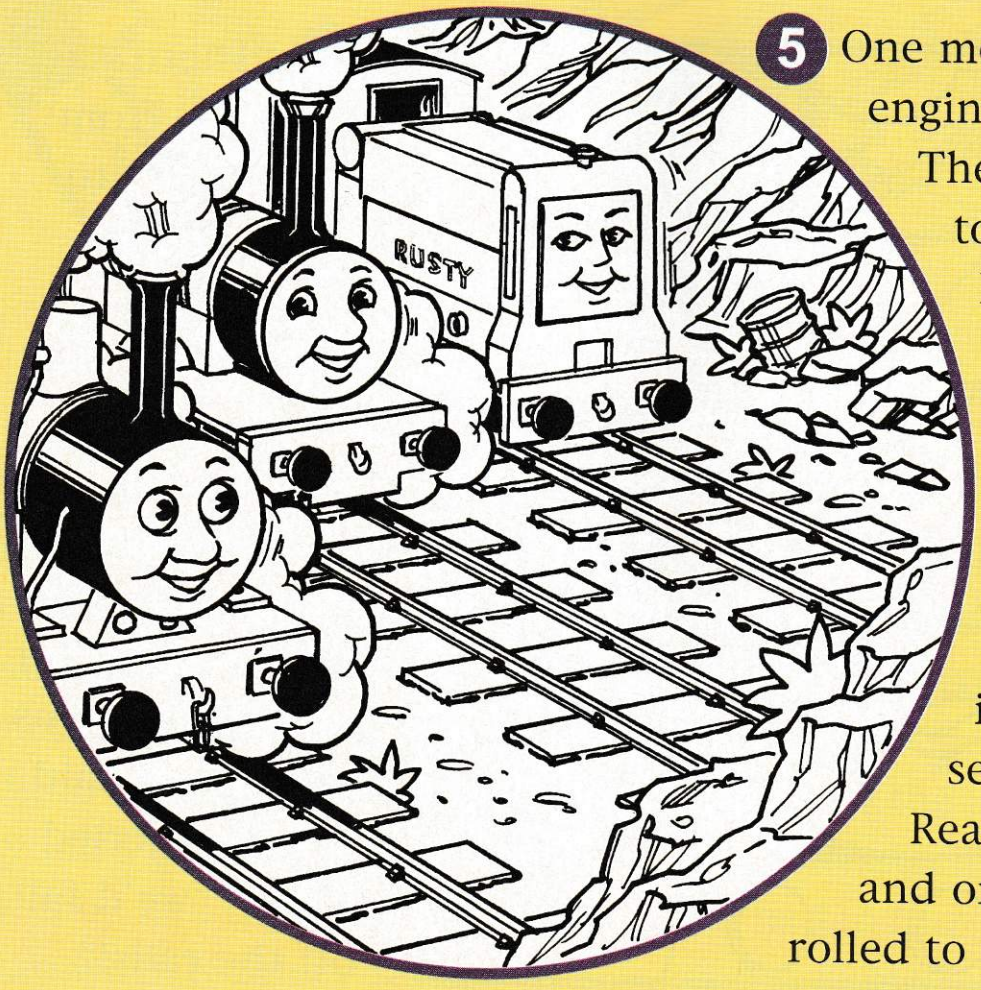

1 The little cliff railway rose steeply among the hills and mountains on the Island of Sodor. Sometimes, Peter Sam, Skarloey and the other engines had to puff very hard to climb it. But, one day, they had quite a shock. It all began when Skarloey saw Rusty, the sturdy little diesel, carrying some new track. "Hello," called Skarloey. "Busy, as usual? I suppose you're going to repair a section of the line?" Skarloey went on. "Not exactly," replied Rusty. He had to hurry off before he could explain properly.

2 Later, Duncan was rocking and rolling along when he met Rusty. He was pulling a train full of men and equipment. Duncan saw Rusty stop in an old siding below a cliff. "What are you doing?" asked Duncan. "The workmen are to build a new line up the cliff," said Rusty.

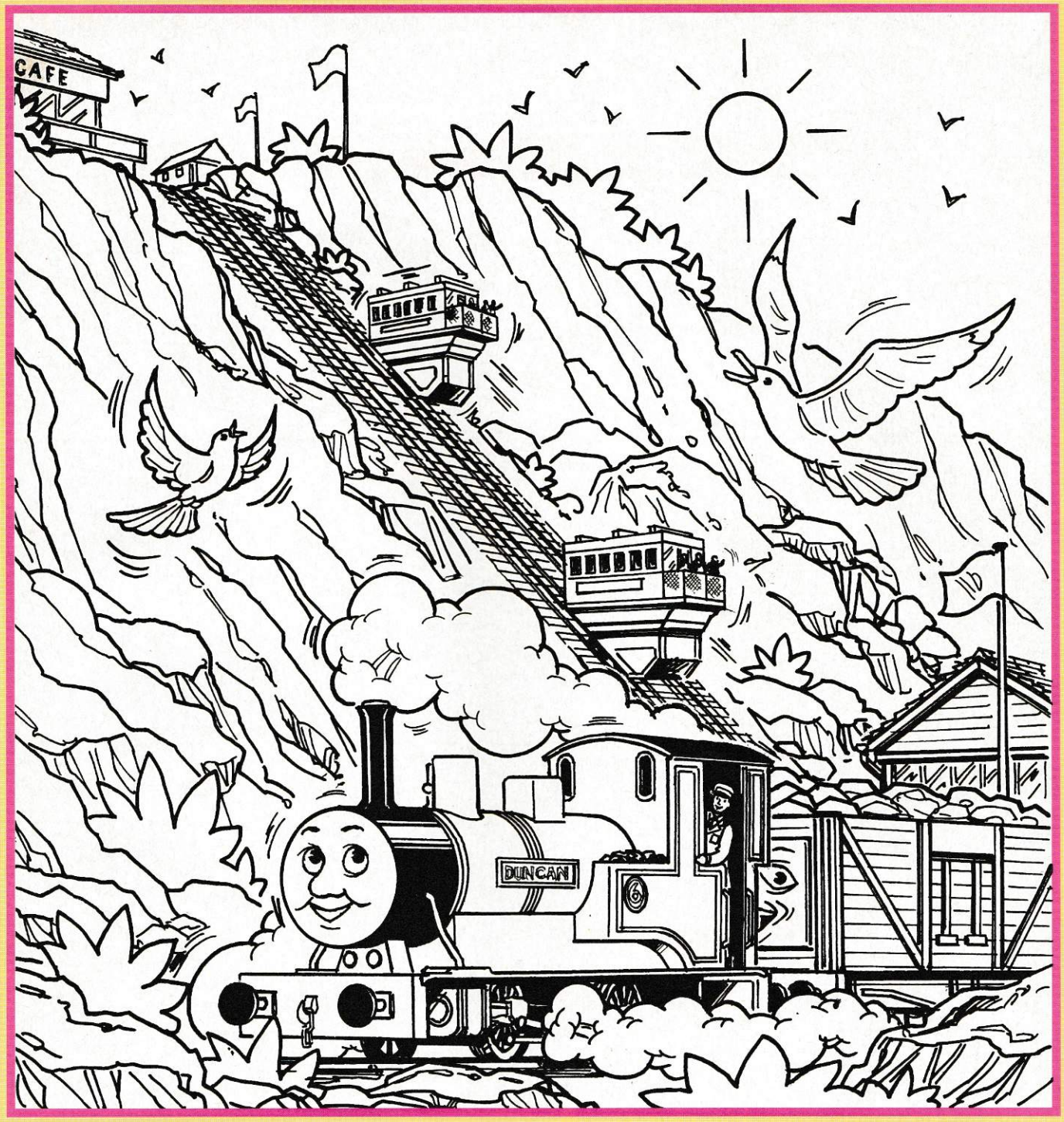


3 "There's a fine view from the top. It's to be a tourist attraction," Rusty went on. Duncan was startled. "If I tried to climb up that steep cliff, I'd run right out of puff! All of us would!" he said. "I know," cried Rusty, "we'd fall off the rails!"

4 As the weeks passed, the little engines became more worried. Every day, the cliff railway was closer to being opened. A cafe and a viewing platform had been built at the very top for the tourists. "Bust my buffers!" gasped Rusty, as he fetched more equipment. "I get dizzy just looking up there!"




5 One morning, the little engines held a meeting. They all agreed not to go on the Cliff Railway. "I've an idea!" smiled Duncan. When he had finished, the other little engines agreed to put his plan into action. They set off to do their Really Useful tasks and one by one almost rolled to a halt.



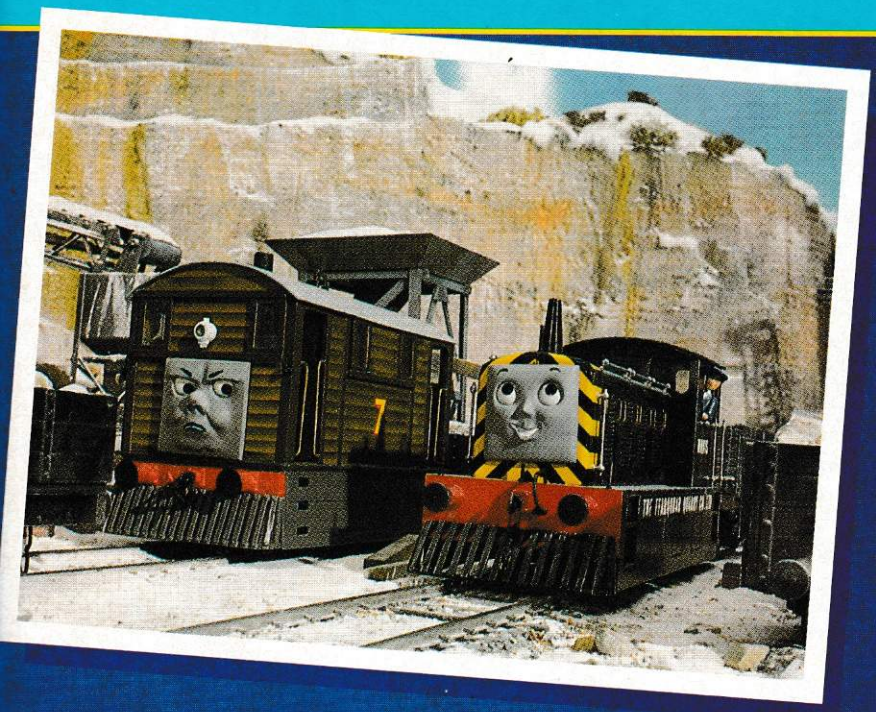

6 "Why are you all going so slowly?" asked the drivers. "Because we don't want to use the Cliff Railway," came the reply. The Fat Controller explained. "The Cliff Railway won't need any engines." The engines didn't understand until they saw the Cliff Railway in action. Two special, wheeled carriages, full of tourists, were pulled up and down the cliff track by cable. "How silly we've been," said Duncan. "We're sorry for going slowly," added Rusty. To make amends, the engines went as fast as they could for the rest of the week!

**The end**

# Mavis and the trucks!

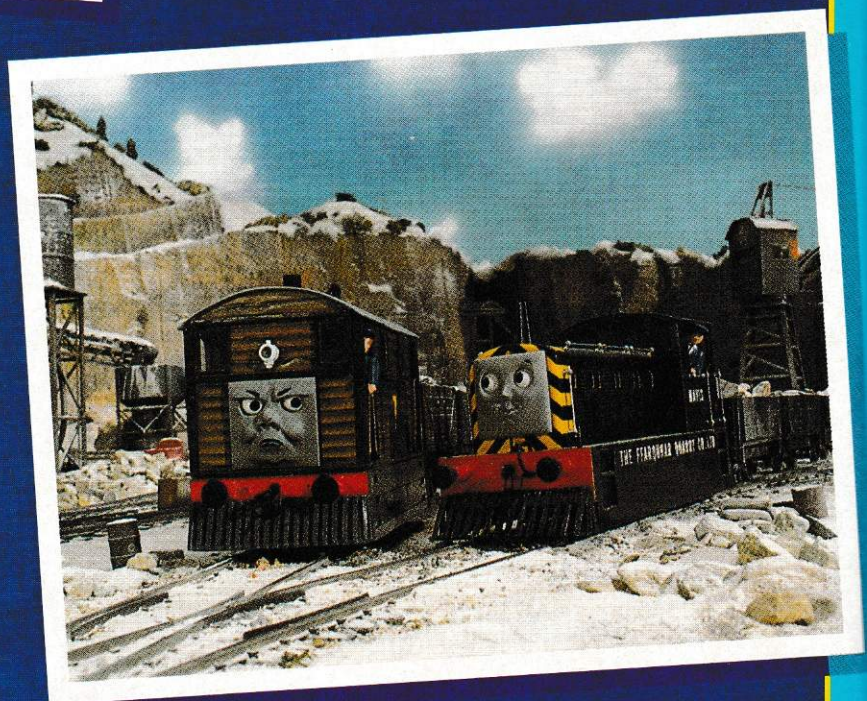
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

*Mavis is a diesel engine who works for the quarry company, shunting trucks in their sidings. She is young and full of her own ideas. She loves rearranging things, too, and began putting Toby's trucks in different places every day!*



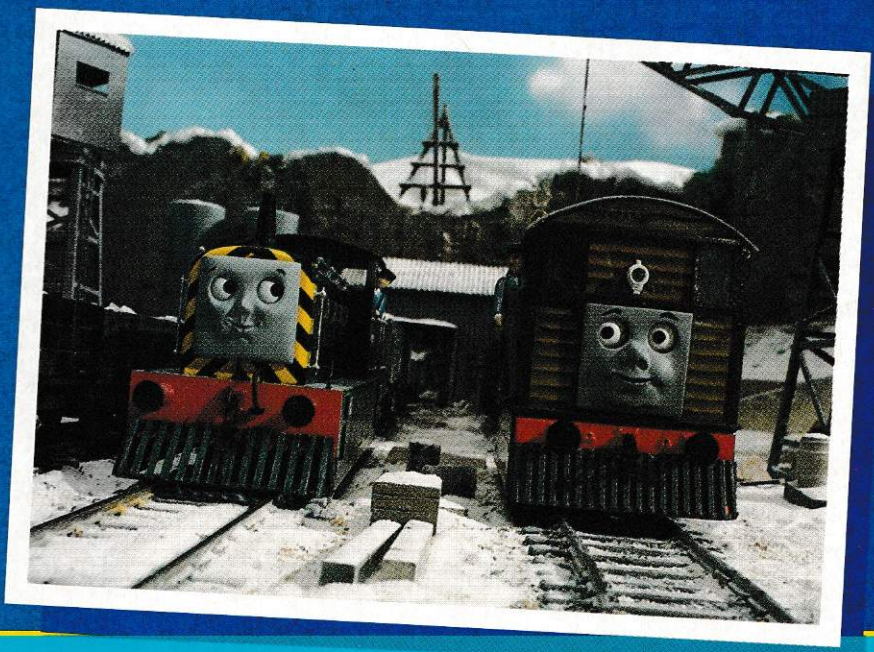
1 This made Toby very cross. "Trucks should be where you want them, when you want them," he said. "Fiddlesticks," said Mavis. At last he lost patience, "I can't waste time playing 'Hunt the Trucks' with you. Take them yourself." Mavis was pleased. She felt important.

2 The weather was cold and frosty and the tracks were very slippery. Toby always let the heavy trucks push him along so he never had any trouble with frosty rails. Toby warned Mavis and told her just what to do. "I can manage, thank you," she said. "I'm not an old fusspot like you."



3 The trucks were tired of being pushed around by Mavis. They decided to push her around, but she took no notice. She took the trucks carefully down a hill and stopped at a level crossing. But she stopped in the wrong place! Instead of taking Toby's advice, she had given the trucks the chance thay wanted.

4 They held back and her wheels spun helplessly. Toby was called to help. He didn't want to, but they were his trucks after all. With much puffing, Toby pushed Mavis and the trucks back. Then, Mavis scuttled home to the quarry as quickly as she could!

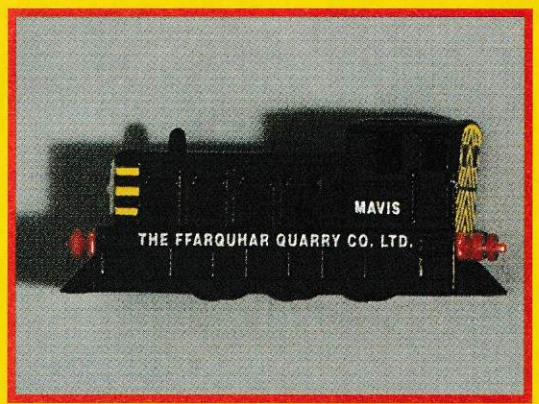


*In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read all about a scarf for Percy!*

# Win a model of Mavis!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Mavis from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/264 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

*Closing date: December 4th 1997.*

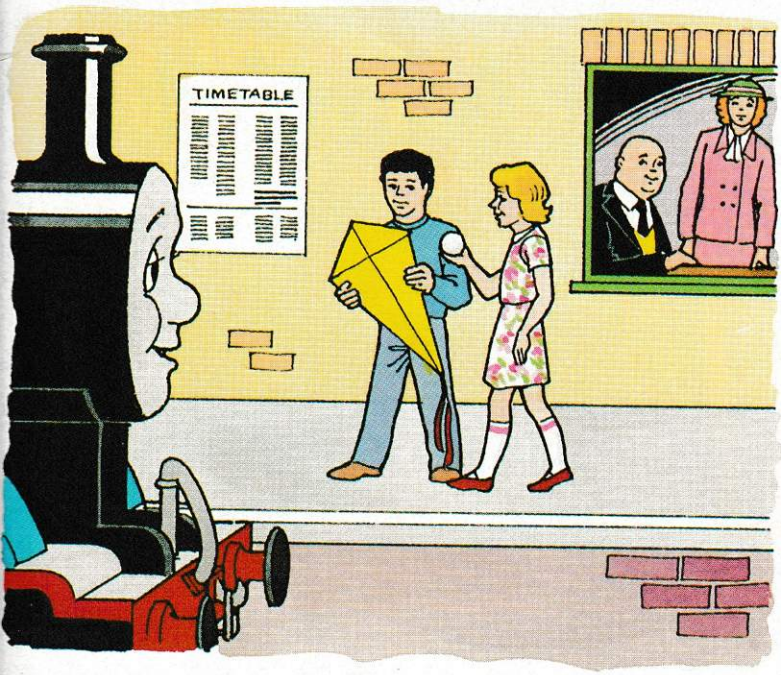


# Funny faces!

Each year, Lady Hatt helped the vicar arrange a church fete. So, one afternoon, she visited the Vicarage with Stephen and Bridget to plan this year's fete. The children played with a ball and kite in the garden while Lady Hatt and the vicar talked.

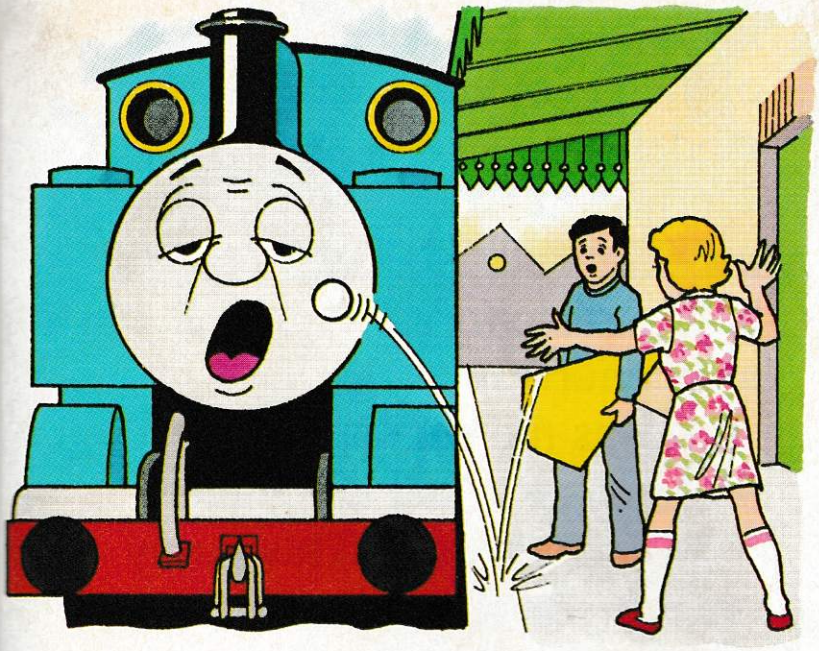
Later, Lady Hatt called her grandchildren. "Time to leave," she said, waving goodbye to the vicar. "We'll try to make the stalls and sideshows really different, this year," he said. "How?" Bridget asked her grandmother.

"I'm sure we can think of something," she replied.




Lady Hatt and the children went to the Main Station. "Your grandpa will finish work shortly," said Lady Hatt. "Then we can all go home together."

The Fat Controller was in his office. While they waited for him, Stephen and Bridget spotted Thomas in the yard. He had been



very busy and he yawned wearily.

Suddenly, Bridget dropped the ball she had taken to the vicarage. It bounced off the platform and almost landed in Thomas' gaping mouth. "Smoke and fire," gasped poor Thomas, in surprise.

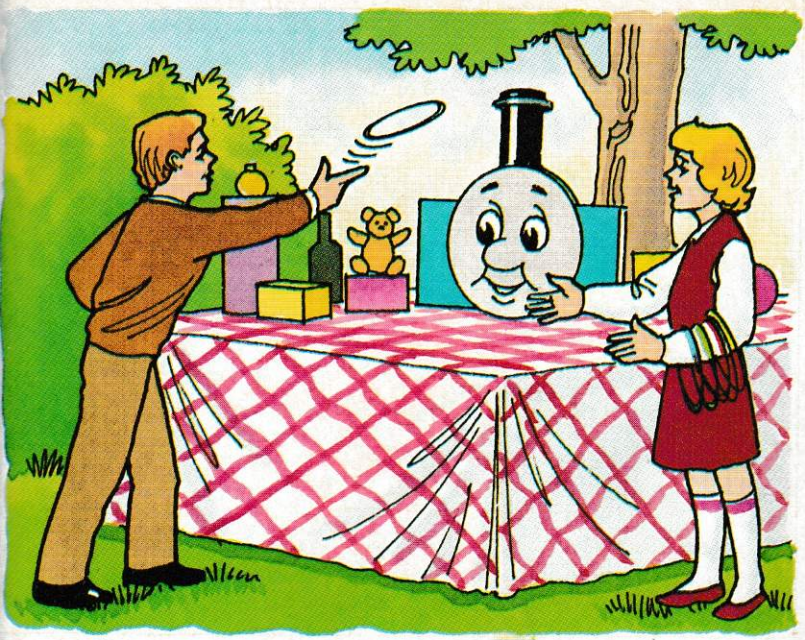
Just then, James rushed past. His slipstream blew the kite out of Stephen's hand and it flew over Thomas' funnel.

"Hey!" fumed Thomas, frowning crossly. He puffed hard and blew the kite clear in a cloud of smoke.

"What funny faces you're pulling today, Thomas!" said Stephen as the Fat Controller and Lady Hatt came to find out what the fuss was about. They quickly picked up the ball and kite. "Hey! I've a great idea for the fete," said Bridget, who eagerly explained.

When the vicar opened the fete, two weeks later, the visitors were very surprised and amused to see sideshows using engine faces. "Roll up! Roll up! Soak Diesel and win a prize!" called Stephen, who was having fun!

Diesel's wooden, painted,



scowling face rocked to and fro on a special stand. Everyone enjoyed hurling wet sponges at it.

Meanwhile, Bridget was running a hoop-la stall. People tried to toss hoops over a cardboard cut-out of Thomas' funnel. Lady Hatt was just as busy with a lucky dip. Lots of excited children used a toy fishing rod to hook presents out of the coal bunker of a small model of cheeky Percy.

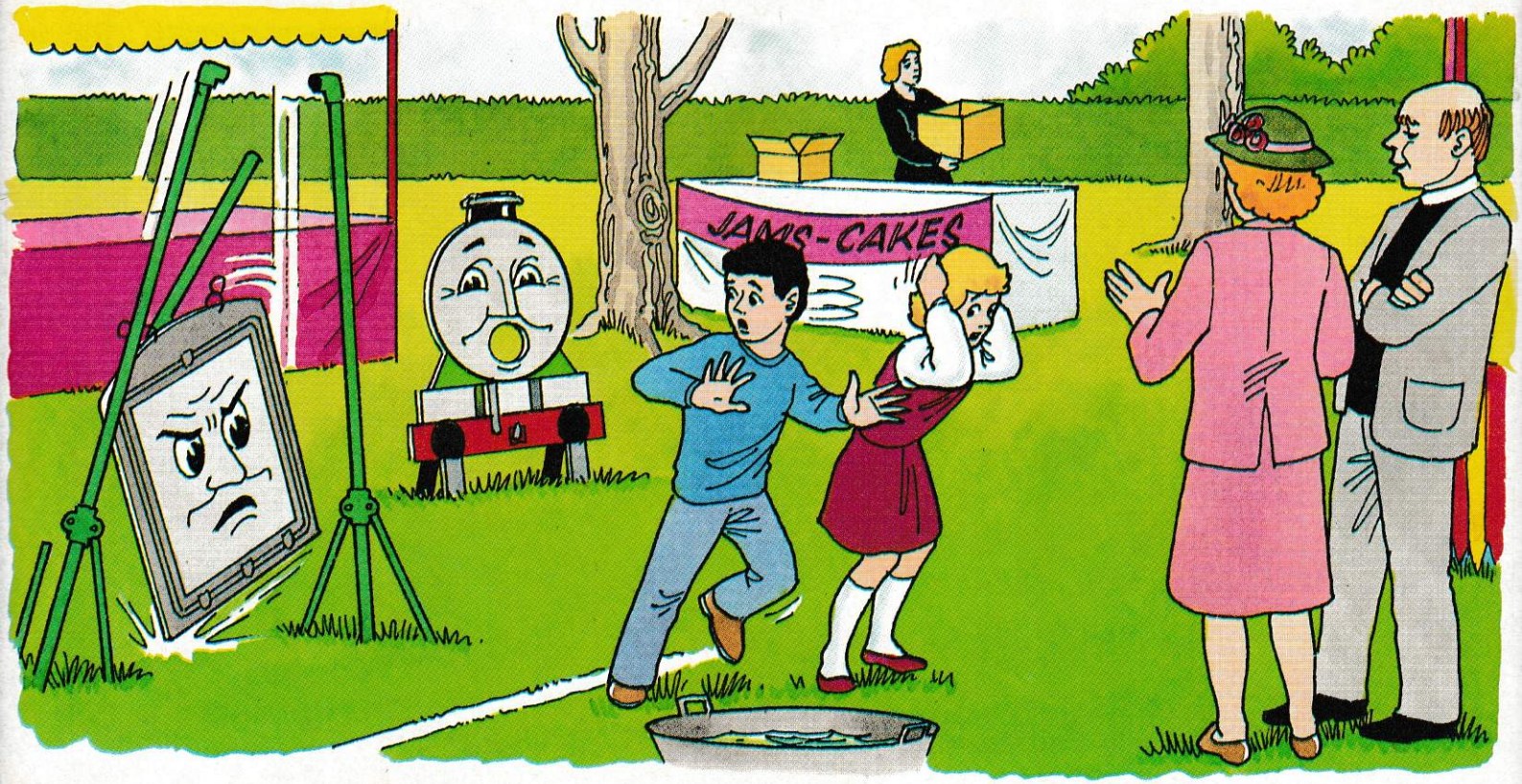
The vicar took charge of another stall. "Throw a ping-pong ball into Henry's mouth and win a coconut!" he called.

It was the best and busiest fete anyone could remember. "We've Thomas and his funny faces to thank," smiled Bridget, after it had ended.

Next moment, Diesel's wooden face fell over with a loud THUD! It made Stephen and Bridget jump. They both looked round, with big, wide, startled eyes.

"Now who's pulling funny faces!" they began to laugh.

The End



# Dot to dot!

Join the dots to complete the picture below and then colour it in!

What can Terence see in the field?

PLAYMOBIL presents

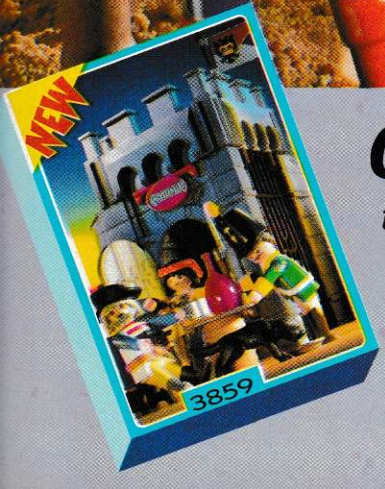
# Daring Rescue

from the pirates' dungeon

NEW!

Tower is easy to assemble.

Actually shoots real cannon balls.

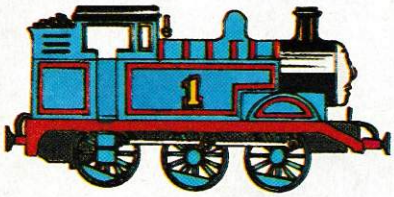


*On prisoner's island the soldiers are surprised the wild pirates attack – they are here to free their leader. With the rattle of cutlasses and the thunder of the cannon a bitter battle is fought. Will the Pirates' be victorious?*

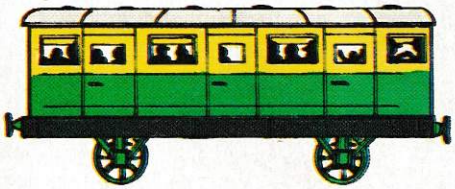
playmobil®

# PUZZLE TIME!

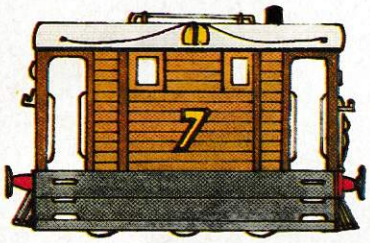
**Draw a line between each engine and the thing they usually pull!**




Thomas

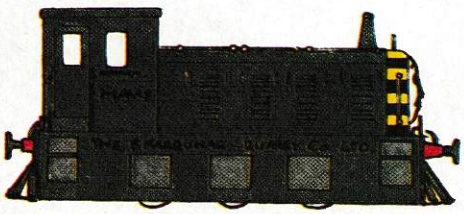


The Express

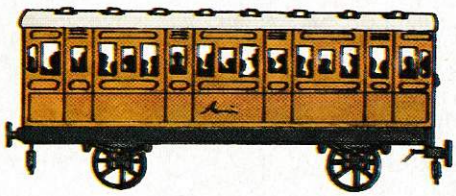



Toby

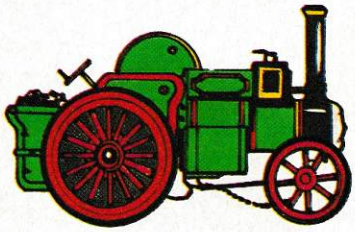
Cart



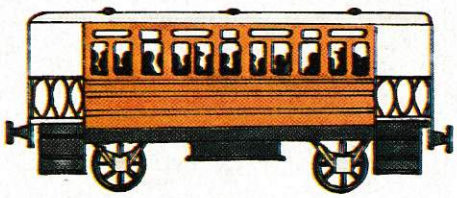
Mavis



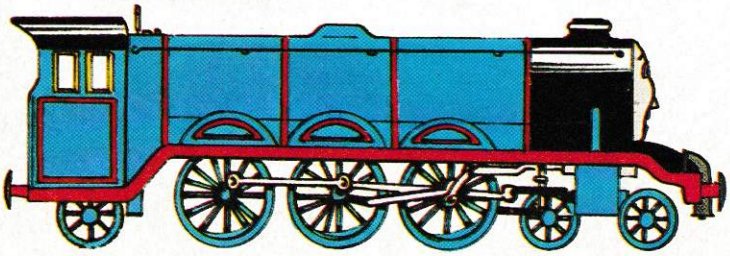
Annie



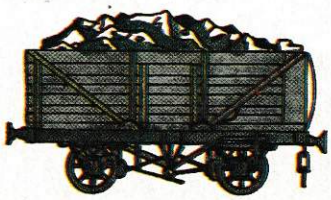
Trevor



Henrietta

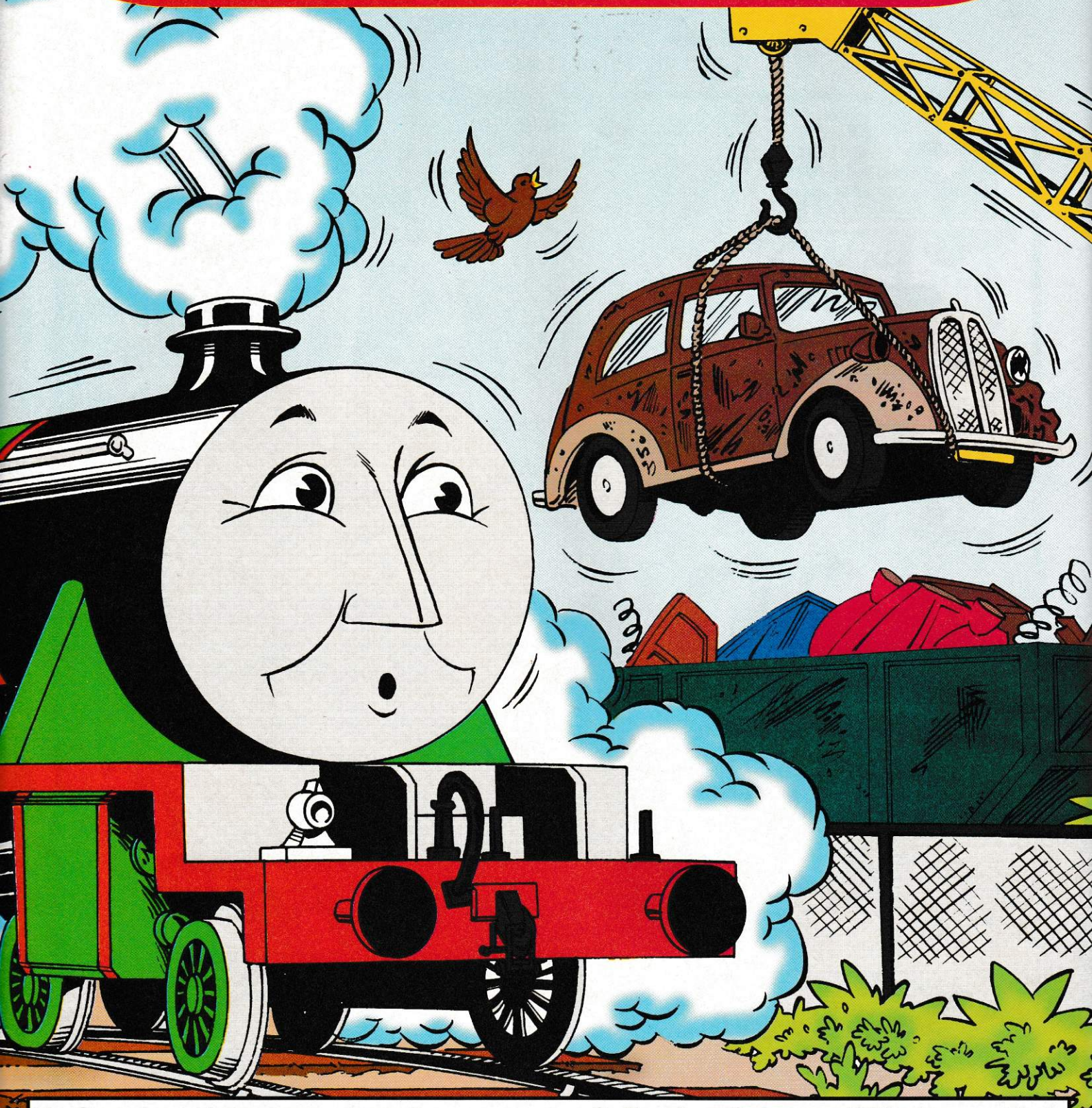


Gordon



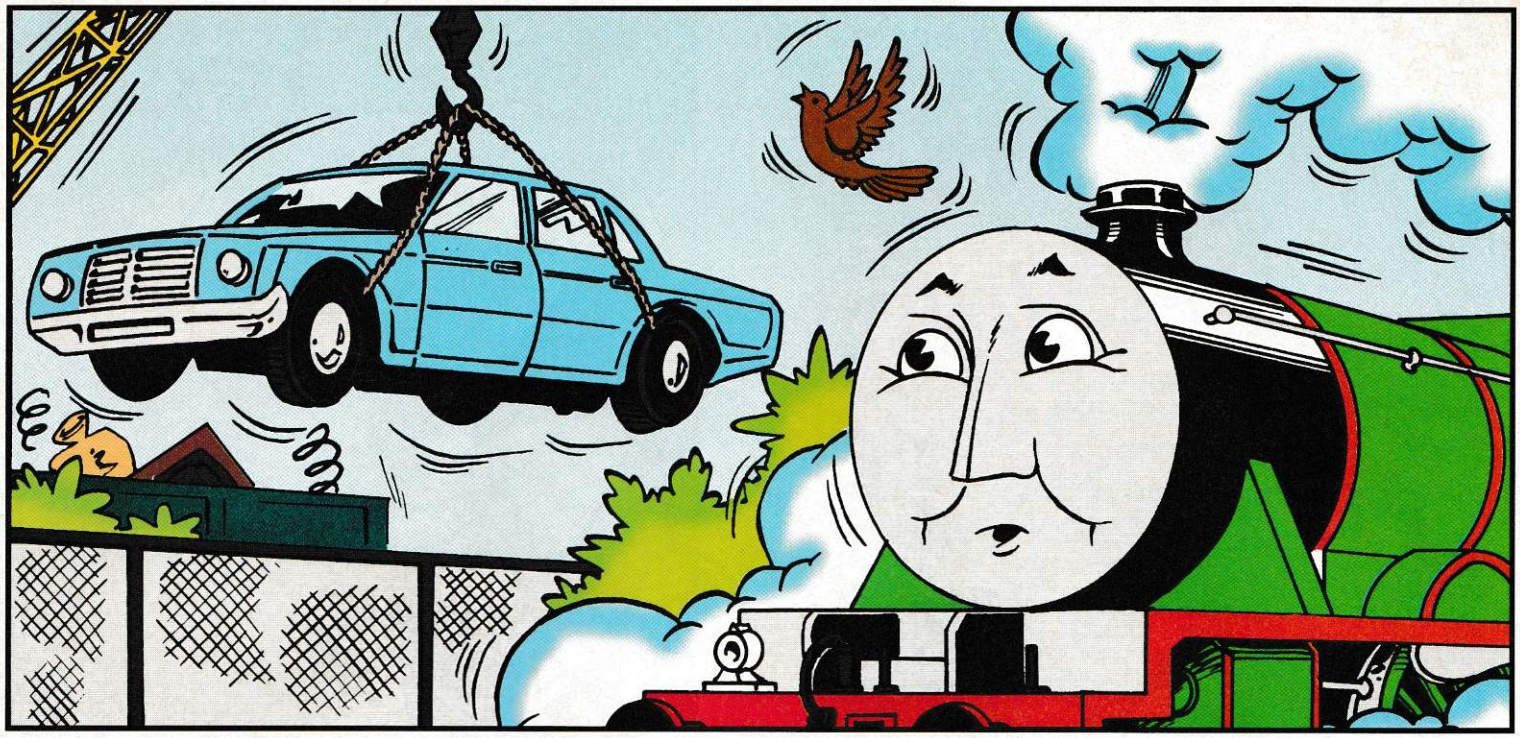
A Truck

# Flying Cars!



1. One day, Henry was steaming happily along when he passed the scrap yard. Suddenly he saw a rusty old car being lifted through the air to be dropped into a giant skip.

2. "Look, a flying car! Whatever will they think of next!" he whistled. The driver laughed, "Look harder, Henry, it's an old car that's being scrapped. It's on the end of that big crane!"

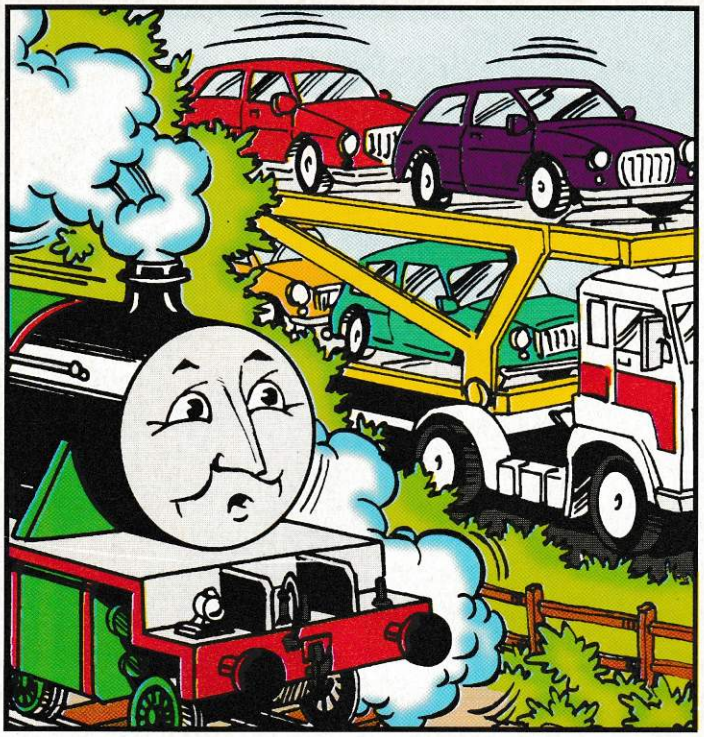


3. Later that morning, Henry was going the other way and passed the scrap yard again. There was another car being lifted high through the air. "It's the end of the road for you !" Henry puffed.

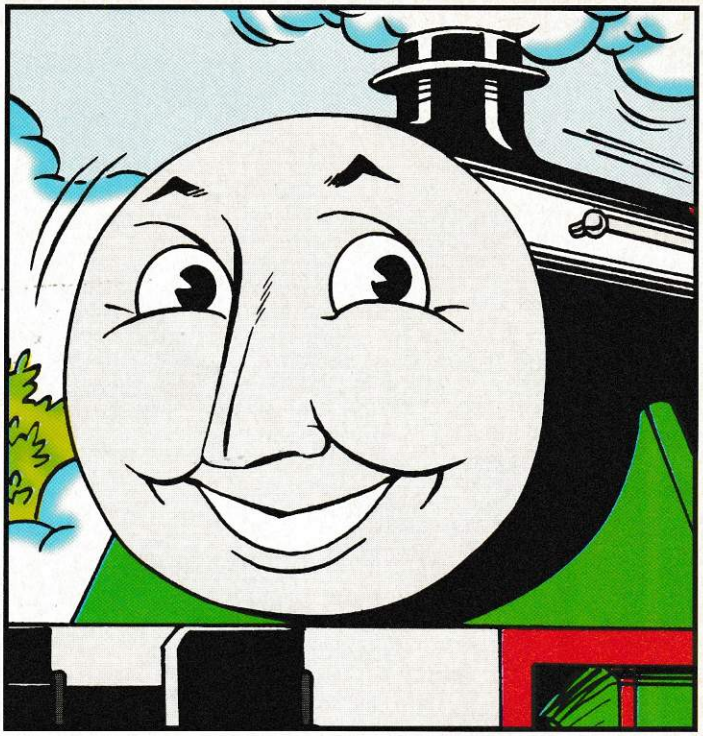
4. Then Henry noticed that the car looked modern. "That car doesn't look very old, why are they scrapping it?" he asked. "Cars don't last long, Henry! Not like you engines!" called the driver.

5. Further down the line, Henry got another surprise! Just ahead of him, three cars seemed to be flying along together. They were hovering along, just higher than the hedge.

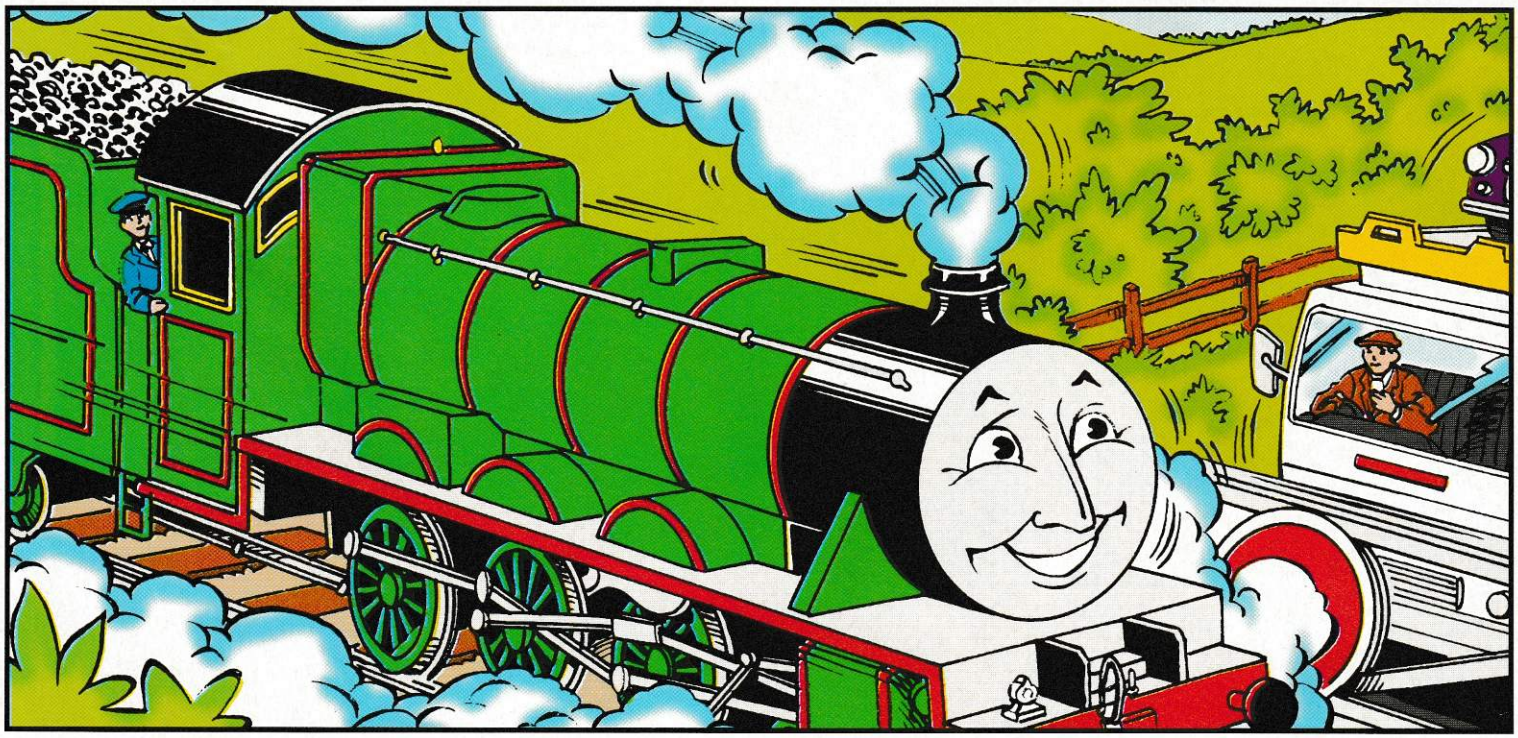
6. Henry couldn't believe his eyes. "What, more flying cars! What a strange day!" he whistled. The driver had to laugh, "Wait till we reach the end of the hedge, Henry!" he called out cheerily.



7. When he reached the end of the hedge, Henry was surprised again. He saw that the cars were on the top level of a car transporter. Henry had never seen cars carried like that before!



8. "Hey! Have they all broken down?" he whistled. "Of course not, Henry, they're all new and the car transporter is taking them to the showroom to be sold!" explained the driver.



9. Soon, the car transporter had to stop at a level-crossing to let Henry go past. Henry called to the driver, "You should take them all to the scrap yard! Cars don't last long, you know!"

10. The driver grinned, "That's true, Henry, and they get held up at level-crossings, traffic-lights and roundabouts too! Not like you steam engines!" Henry started to feel quite special!

11. That evening, the Fat Controller was talking to Henry and his driver at the Main Station. "I was late for work today, held up in a traffic jam!" he groaned. "Oh dear, cars aren't Really Useful, are they!" muttered Henry. "We engines carry lots of people, we don't get caught up in traffic, and we last ten times longer than cars!" The driver joined in, "You can even relax and read on a train!"

12, "You're right, and that smelly petrol that cars run on costs a lot, too!" agreed the Fat Controller. Then he smiled, "But a flying car, now that would be Really Useful!" Henry laughed, "There's no such thing! So make way for a long-lasting, smooth running, Really Useful steam engine!" he puffed proudly, and pulled away feeling very pleased with himself!

# The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

## Star Letter

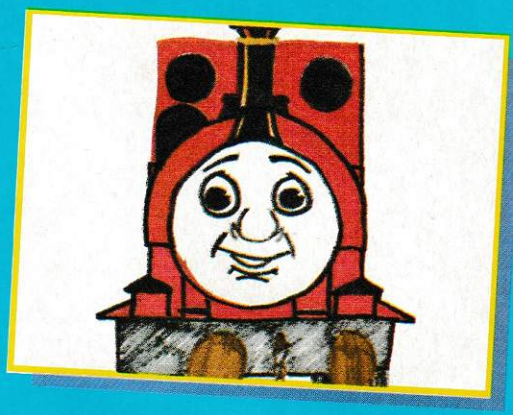
Dear Fat Controller,
Why is Gordon bigger than all of the other engines?

From Laura Snell, aged 8.

Gordon needs to be very big and strong to pull the express train. Because he is bigger than the other engines he sometimes thinks that he is more important, but all of my engines are Really Useful!

If we print your STAR LETTER, you will receive a Branchline Playtrack as a prize!

Thomas Anderson, aged 8, sent me this excellent picture of Skarloey!



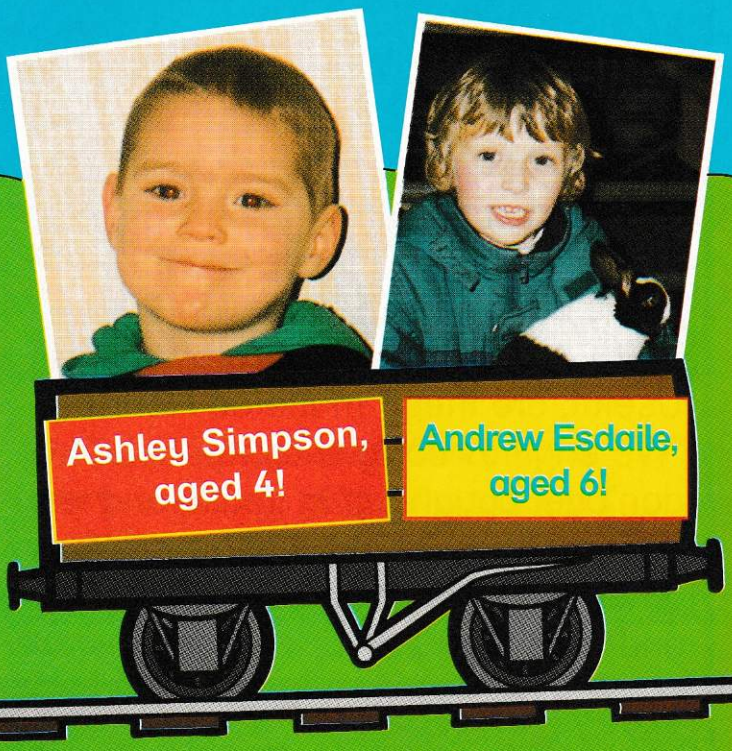
## Prize Poem!

This wonderful poem, by Callum Mitchell, aged 2, will win a special prize!

Thomas is watching
the moonlit sky,
When he sees a light
go flashing by.
Is it a shooting star in the sky?
No it's Harold way up high!

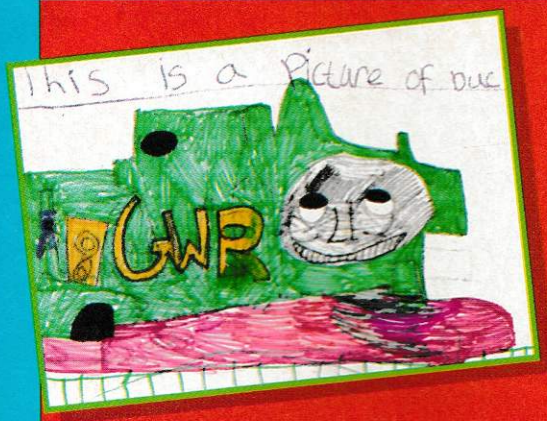
## Happy Birthday

To: Daniel Grumbley, aged 5,
Simon Llewellyn, aged 11,
Luke Mayars, aged 3,
Jordan Boyle, aged 5,
Andrew and Heather Bullows,
Connor Broom, aged 3, &
Thomas Madeley, aged 3!



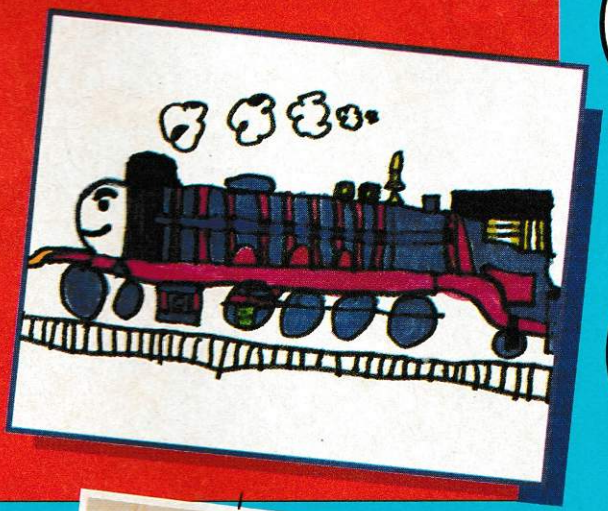
# ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.




Duck seems really happy in this great drawing by Danielle Tooze!

Gordon is very busy chuffing along in this brilliant picture by Neima Nozari!



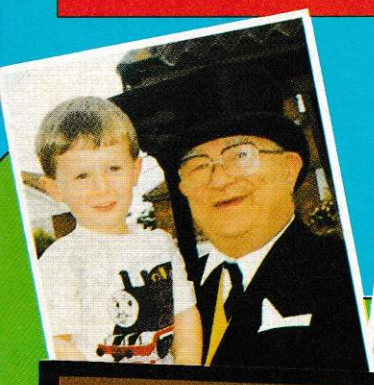
## Percy's Jokes!

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

Who's the boss of the hankies?
The hankie chief!
Daniel Johnson, aged 3!

Why did the girl keep a loaf of bread in her comic?
She liked crummy jokes!
Marie-Louise Greene, aged 4!

What did the first mind-reader say to the second mind-reader?
You're all right, how am I?
Helen Sheppard, aged 6!

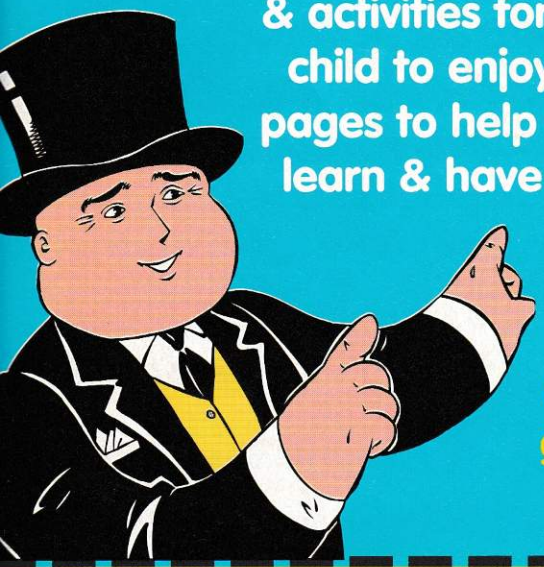


James Costin, aged 4!

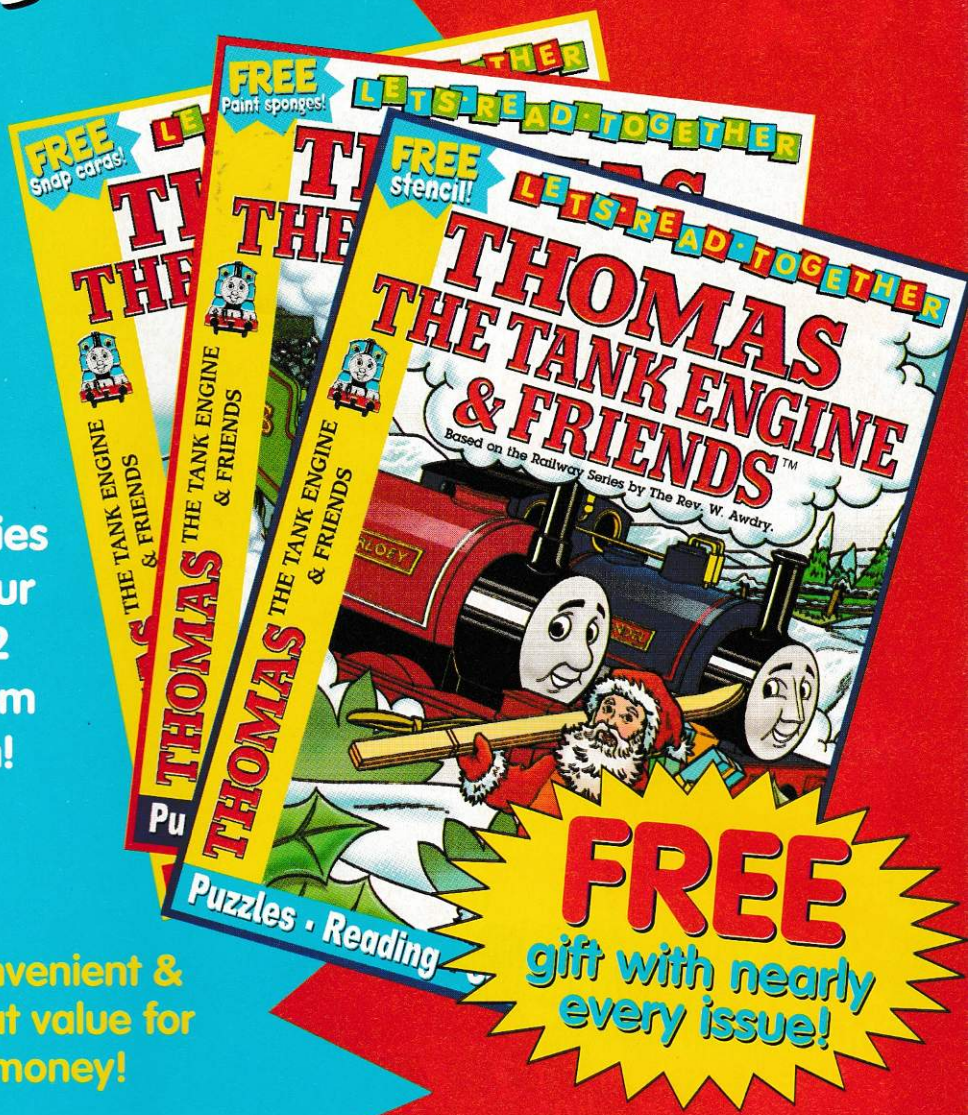
Sam DeFroand, aged 4!

# Subscription offer!

**Receive 2 free issues when you subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends today! For only £28.80 you will get 26 fun-packed issues for the price of 24!**



**Packed full of stories & activities for your child to enjoy! 32 pages to help them learn & have fun!**




**FREE gift with nearly every issue!**

**Convenient & great value for money!**

**Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for now and receive 26 issues for the price of 24!**

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 12 months for £28.80.
Postage and packaging is **FREE!**

**Child's name**.....**Address**.....

.....

.....**Post code**..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

**Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms** ..... **Address (if different from child's)**.....

.....

.....**Post code** .....

**Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.**

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐

0125E

INTRODUCING

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

## Talking camera...

- Focus free Daylight Camera.
- Music and message can be played without taking a picture.
- Prints Thomas image on every picture.
- No film threading or winding.
- CE Approved.
- Batteries and Kodak film included.

## ...and The Classic Daylight Camera

- Focus free Daylight Camera.
- No film threading or winding.
- Kodak film included.
- CE Approved.
- Prints Thomas image on every picture.

## Designed to bring *real* photography to children at an affordable price.

Available at most leading toy and photo stores, Argos and Index.

Britt™ THE BRITT ALLCROFT COMPANY

Thomas image on every picture

An Official Licensed Product. Made by Concord Camera Corp.
© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited 1997.

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

**Brilliant competitions!**

**Great Christmas stories!**

**Puzzles and colouring!**

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!**

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

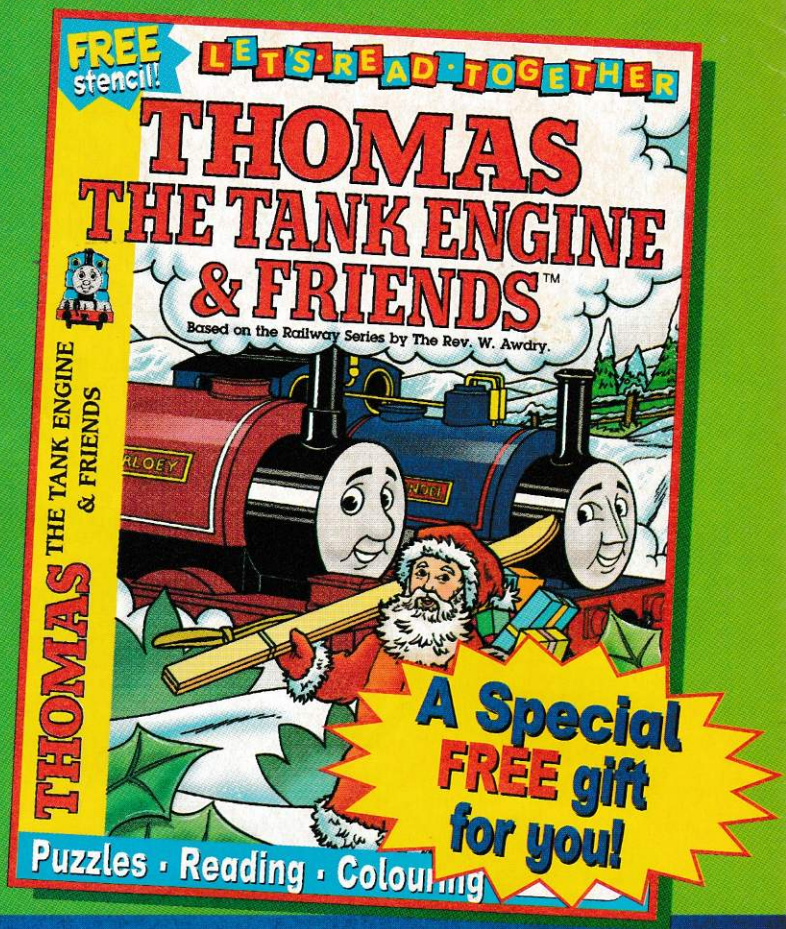
Address.....

.....Post Code.....

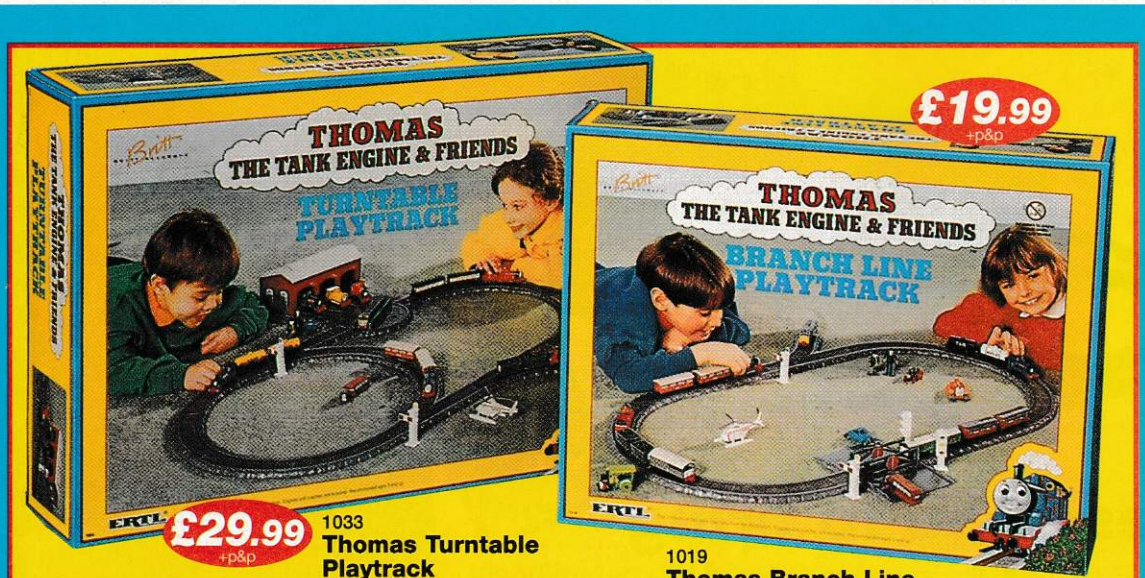
Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

## In issue 265 of . . .




## On sale from 27th November 1997!




1033 **Thomas Turntable Playtrack**




1019 **Thomas Branch Line Playtrack**

NEW!

1005 **Thomas Water Tower Accessory Set**

1009 **Thomas Crane Accessory Set**

## PHOENIX ASSOCIATES

The products featured opposite can be ordered from:
**'PHOENIX ASSOCIATES'**
by credit Card/Switch on
**ORDER LINE 01530 415878**
or by Cheque or Postal Order to:
**Phoenix Associates**
**P.O. Box 34**
**Ashby-de-la-Zouch**
**LE65 1ZS**
by completing the following order form.
Cheques payable to:
**PHOENIX ASSOCIATES**

| Code | Description | Price | Order | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1033 | Turntable Playtrack | £29.99 | | |
| 1019 | Branch Line Playtrack | £19.99 | | |
| 1005 | Water Tower Acces. Set | £6.99 | | |
| 1009 | Crane Accessory Set | £6.99 | | |
| | **Postage & Packing** Orders up to £10.00 p&p £1.50 Orders £10.00 and over p&p £2.99 | | | |
| | **TOTAL ORDER VALUE £ incl p&p** | | | |

Card No.....

Expiry..... Switch Issue No.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code..... Tel .....

Signature.....

**Please allow 28 days for delivery**